

December 10, 2003

## MEETING MINUTES

**SUBJECT:** TONAWANDA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN  
Comprehensive Plan Board (CPB) Meeting  
Meeting Date: December 9, 2003

**ATTENDANCE:** Edward Umiker; Robert Dimmig; George Dolce; Robert Mayer; George Melrose; Joe Shiah; Ray Sinclair; Roy Svensson; Kenneth Swanekamp;; Drew Reilly; Ellen Parker

- I. **Introduction:** George Dolce, Chair of the Ken-Ton Chamber of Commerce is a new member to the CPB. Drew Reilly asked for input on any new issues or concerns in the Town of Tonawanda. The following comments were brought up:
- Libraries: The County will provide the Town with \$2.5 million for a new library, but only if the Town uses the new branch to reconfigure the Town's system and close two existing branches. Wendel Duchscherer will attempt to get a copy of the 1999 report regarding libraries in Erie County.
  - Brownfields: there is new State legislation for addressing brownfields
  - Quality Market site: potential reuse options should be explored
  - GBNRTC Annual Plan: is being presented next week. This study should be incorporated into the Town's planning.
  - Kenmore-Vulcan area: there are a number of regional transportation businesses in this area. The TTDC is beginning to explore ways to develop more integration between the transportation sector and the manufacturing sector.
  - Rail transportation in Tonawanda is at capacity
  - Funding for the North Youngmann Commerce Center is still being pursued
  - There will be improvements to Two Mile Creek: erosion control, bridge amenities, etc. between Sheridan and the Youngmann (vicinity of the golf course)
  - The GM project/ rail crossing improvements proposed for Kenmore Avenue have been delayed due to funding problems
  - Sherwood Trail project- would like to bid for topographical work soon
  - NOCO- received intermodal funding, and inclusion in the Empire Zone
- II. **Public Information Meeting: Format:** There were no changes to the summary of the meeting. Drew Reilly noted that there were no surprises in terms of topics brought up at the public meeting—the issues closely paralleled the issues raised by the CPB. CPB members noted that the public generally had positive comments.

There was discussion as to how to get a better range of attendees to the public meeting. It was agreed that the notices to the interest groups would be sent earlier. The meetings with interest groups in Town will also be used to get the word out. Notices will be sent to the Chamber of Commerce and the School Districts for inclusion in their newsletters.

The next Public Meeting was tentatively scheduled for late February. Mr. Umiker will investigate the availability of reserving the auditorium at the Hoover School. (Note: due to conflicting events in the school district, the date for the Public Meeting will be **Tuesday, FEBRUARY 24, 2004**. The auditorium at Hoover Middle School has been reserved.)

- III. **Meetings with Departments and Stakeholders:** WD met with two Department heads, and has had input from others. Minutes of the meetings were distributed. WD will follow up on obtaining additional information. WD will put together a transportation-oriented meeting with GBNRTC, NYSDOT, the Thruway Authority, Erie County DPW and Brad Rowles of the Town of Tonawanda Highway Department and the Engineering/Technical Support Department. We will also organize an economic development oriented meeting.
- IV. **Special Interest Groups:** We went over the list of special interest groups. WD will meet with the Board of Directors of the Ken-Ton Chamber of Commerce, the Town of Tonawanda Seniors, and the Allied Commissioners of the Fire Districts in the Town. CPB members volunteered to speak to various other groups. WD will prepare a packet that they can use when they go out to the groups. These meetings should take place in January and February, before the next Public Meeting. The purpose is to get input from groups, but also to get the word out about the project and the upcoming public meeting.
- V. **Data and Inventory:** Mapping is essentially completed. Large copies of the maps were on display. Most of the data collection is completed, and sections of the inventory section are being drafted. The Town will begin to post some of this information on the website.
- VI. **Issues/ Goals and Objectives:** An initial draft of goals was provided. It categorizes the comments into broad headings. The CPB is asked to review these goals and make comments, corrections, additions or deletions, and provide the changes to WD. The goals are intended to provide general guidelines for the "direction" of the Town. More specific action items building on the goals will be in the implementation section.
- VII. **Next Steps:** The next **CPB meeting** has been scheduled for **Tuesday, January 13, 2004** at 3:00 p.m. at the Sheridan Parkside Community Center.

Respectively submitted,

WENDEL DUCHSCHERER

Ellen L. Parker, AICP